

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, the Abstract is amended to reduce word count. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

Turning to the rejection of claims in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,167,874 to Becker, the rejection is respectfully traversed. Within the Becker device, the valve drive assembly housing is not in communication exclusively with the crankcase volume. Instead, the valve drive assembly housing of the Becker device is also in communication with the intake duct 43 through duct 45. See Fig. 4 of the Becker patent. As such, the Becker patent can not satisfy the claim limitation concerning the valve drive assembly housing being in communication exclusively with the crankcase volumes through at least one small size passage. Accordingly, claim 1 and all of the claims dependent therefrom are allowable. New claims 19-21 are added to further identify this distinguishing concept. It should be noted that the Becker patent was cited within the International Search Report and was not considered particularly relevant to the subject application.

Lastly, it should be noted that certain of the claims have been amended to place the claims in a more conventional U.S. format.

If there are any further fees resulting from this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 36899.

Respectfully submitted,
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